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EMBASSY BEAUTY PROBED AS 'MATA HARI'



Sandinista soldiers at a parade celebrating their victory over Somoza.

By NILES LATHEM
 Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON — A beautiful press secretary of the Nicaraguan Embassy — trained by Cuban intelligence — is being probed by the CIA as the suspected Mata Hari at the center of an intricate Sandinista spy operation.

She is Angela Saballos, who carries the title of First Secretary of the Nicaraguan embassy.

Publicly she is the woman who answers the phone when the press wants a statement from the embassy, and arranges interviews when

Allege powerful D.C. links

visiting members of the radical Sandinista government visit Washington.

But, for a press secretary, Angela Saballos has a rather interesting background and even more interesting connections here in Washington.

These connections, which include friendships with powerful Democrats in Congress, have attracted the attention of the CIA and the Defense Intelligence Agency.

According to intelligence sources, there is great concern over Miss

Saballos' friendship with two Democratic members of Congress.

One, a House member, has been a key figure in the fight to cut \$30 million in funds for a covert CIA operation designed to sabotage the Sandinistas' mischief-making in Central America.

Miss Saballos also has allegedly been linked to a Democratic senator who has been an outspoken critic of continued U.S. aid to El Salvador.

Sources say that neither member of Congress is suspected of any wrong-doing.

U.S. intelligence believes that Angela Saballos is actually "station chief" for Nicaragua's intelligence organization in Washington.

U.S. intelligence also has evidence that she has had extensive training in Cuba by the DGI — the Cuban sister of the Soviet KGB.

But while there is evidence of her connections to Soviet-backed spy agencies, the U.S. has been unable to catch her doing anything other than her official duties in the embassy.

The allegations come

at a time when President Reagan is on the defensive in the battle for public acceptance of his view that unless Nicaragua is controlled, the Communist fire that started there in 1979 could envelop the entire region in revolution.

Miss Saballos could not be reached for comment last night, having flown from Washington to New York late yesterday.

At the Nicaraguan Mission to the UN, employees said they did not know where she was.

The CIA refused comment.

Miss Saballos, the daughter of a dressmaker in Managua, formerly worked for the U.S. government.

At the time when the Sandinista revolution was overthrowing the Somoza dictatorship in Nicaragua, she was employed as a receptionist at the U.S. Embassy in Managua.

While there, it is believed that she had a close friendship with a senior member of the U.S. Embassy.

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